

REMARKS

The following numbered paragraphs correspond to the numbered paragraphs in the Office Action beginning on page 2 thereof.

1. Applicant encloses a replacement formal drawing sheet containing Figs. 14, 15 and 16 which have been labeled as "PRIOR ART".

2. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), in view of the above amendment of claim 8, (and of the specification). Applicant does not acquiesce in the Examiner's assertion that the drawings do not "show every feature of the invention specified in the claims", as, by definition, a square is a rectangle. However, to advance the prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended claim 8 and the specification to replace all occurrences of "flat rectangular plate" with "quadrangular plate", thereby overcoming the requirement for a "corrected" drawing sheet.

3. Applicant does not understand the Examiner's statement, "the listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement...", as Applicant finds no such references listed in the specification. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner either to explain this statement or else to withdraw it.

5, 6, 9. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a) both rely on Hasegawa '805 whose effective date is its PCT publication (in the Japanese language) date of **June 12, 2003**, which is **later** than Applicant's already claimed Japanese priority date of **August 7, 2002**.

To perfect Applicant's claim to the Japanese priority date and, thus, to **disqualify** Hasegawa '805 as a reference against the present application, Applicant encloses a certified English translation of the Japanese priority application 2002-229522.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all requirements, objections and rejections, and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with all of claims 1-19; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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